

Updated!

Wisconsin Standards for Health Education

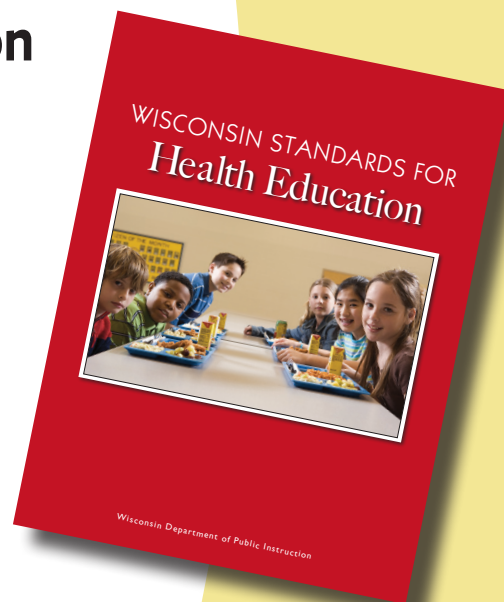
Imagine a Wisconsin in which all students are fit, healthy, and ready to learn; where all students have the essential skills to live a healthy and productive life. Imagine that young people successfully apply the skills they learn in health education to real-life, challenging situations throughout their teen and adult years. At a time when many forces pressure students to make decisions that can compromise their well-being, health-related skills and knowledge are important parts of ensuring every child graduates prepared for success.

To clearly identify what students should know and be able to do in order to lead healthy lives, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction created the *Wisconsin Standards for Health Education*. This document builds upon earlier efforts, including the *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards* (1997) and the *National Health Education Standards* (2006).

The Wisconsin Standards for Health Education provides a framework for aligning health education curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In the fall and winter of 2010/11 a team of health educators and administrators created this document with the assistance of Wisconsin Health and Physical Education (WHPE); the Wisconsin Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators; and the Wisconsin Education Association Council. This team built upon the national standards and developed a rigorous K-12 learning continuum. The new health education standards include the following components:

- Broad statements of essential student knowledge and skills.
- A rationale for each of the eight health education standards.
- Learning priorities to help school districts develop effective K-12 health education curricula.
- Focus areas to guide teachers regarding the types of health education instruction that will best help students meet the standards.
- A PK-12 learning continuum that provides grade band descriptions for each learning priority.

The new *Wisconsin Standards for Health Education* is an essential resource for parents, school personnel, and other community members in their work to teach students what they need to be able to do to lead healthier lifestyles.



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